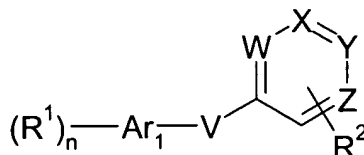


Amendment to the Claims

1. (previously presented) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

V represents NR^5 , O, S, SO or S(O)_2 ;

W and X each independently represent CH or N;

Y represents N, CH or C-Ar_2 , with the proviso that at least one, but no more than two, of W, X and Y are N;

Z represents CH or C-Ar_2 , with the proviso that when Y is N or CH then Z is C-Ar_2 , and with the further proviso that when Y is C-Ar_2 then Z is CH;

Ar_1 represents a fused 9 or 10 membered heterobicyclic ring system containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, wherein at least one of the rings in said ring system is aromatic;

Ar_2 represents an aromatic ring selected from phenyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl and pyrazinyl; which aromatic ring is optionally fused to a phenyl ring, a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S at most 1 heteroatom being O or S, or a six-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1, 2 or 3 N atoms; which aromatic ring is unsubstituted or substituted by one, two or three groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, phenyl C_{1-2} alkoxy, halo C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkoxy, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl C_{1-4} alkyl, cyano, nitro, SR^6 , SOR^6 , SO_2R^6 , COR^6 , NR^3COR^6 , CONR^3R^4 , $\text{NR}^3\text{SO}_2\text{R}^6$, $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{carboxy}$, esterified

$-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{carboxy}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$, phenyl, naphthyl, a five-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S at most 1 heteroatom being O or S and a six-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1, 2 or 3 N atoms; where two C_{1-6} alkoxy groups are on adjacent atoms they may, together with the atoms to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered partially saturated ring;

R¹ represents halogen, hydroxy, oxo, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, haloC₁₋₆alkyl, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, haloC₁₋₆alkoxy, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkoxy, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkoxy, C₃₋₅cycloalkylC₁₋₄alkyl, cyano, nitro, SR⁶, SOR⁶, SO₂R⁶, COR⁶, NR³COR⁶, CONR³R⁴, NR³SO₂R⁶, SO₂NR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_mcarboxy, esterified -(CH₂)_mcarboxy or -(CH₂)_mNR³R⁴;

R² represents hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, haloC₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, haloC₁₋₆alkoxy, unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with one or two groups selected from halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, haloC₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy or haloC₁₋₆alkoxy;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl or fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl;

or R³ and R⁴ and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached together form a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms, optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from hydroxy or C₁₋₄alkoxy, which ring may optionally contain as one of the said ring atoms an oxygen or a sulfur atom, S(O), S(O)₂, or NR⁵;

R⁵ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl or C₁₋₄alkoxyC₁₋₄alkyl;

R⁶ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, unsubstituted phenyl, or phenyl substituted with one or two groups selected from halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, haloC₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy or haloC₁₋₆alkoxy;

m is either zero or an integer from 1 to 4;

n is either zero or an integer from 1 to 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, N-oxide or a prodrug thereof.

2. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R¹ is halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl or fluoroC₁₋₄alkyl.

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 in which n is one or two.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, 2 or 3 in which R² is hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy or phenyl substituted by C₁₋₄alkyl or fluoroC₁₋₄alkyl.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to any preceding claim in which
=W-X=Y- represents
=N-CH=CH-, =N-N=CH-, =N-CH=N- or =N-N=C(Ar₂)-.

6. (previously presented) A compound according to any preceding claim in which
Ar₁ represents a heterobicyclic ring system selected from isoquinoline, indazole, triazolopyridine,
cinnoline, benzothiazole, imidazopyridine, quinoline, tetrahydroisoquinoline or dihydroisoquinoline.

7. (previously presented) A compound according to any preceding claim in which
Ar₂ is phenyl or pyridyl which are optionally fused to a phenyl, imidazolyl or thienyl ring, and are
unsubstituted or substituted by one to three groups independently selected from halogen, cyano, C₁₋₄alkyl,
fluoroC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, fluoroC₁₋₄alkoxy, phenylC₁₋₂alkoxy, piperidine optionally substituted by
oxygen, COR⁶ where R⁶ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl, pyrazole, C₁₋₄alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, C₁₋₄
alkylsulphonyl, nitro, phenyl, C₁₋₄alkylthio, hydroxy and -O-CH₂-O-.

8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of
formula (I) according to any preceding claim, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof,
and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

9. (amended) A compound of formula (I) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~
claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof, for use in a method of treatment of the
human or animal body by therapy.

10. Cancelled.

11. (previously presented) A method for the treatment or prevention of a disease or
condition in which pain and/or inflammation predominates, which method comprises administration to a
patient in need thereof of an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.